

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01
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O R 070705Z JUL 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8002
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6552

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 6)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S NEW CABINET

REFS: (A) ISLAMABAD 6488, (B) KARACHI 3240 NOTAL
(C) LAHORE 873 NOTAL, (D) ISLAMABAD 6452

1. SUMMARY: PAKISTAN'S NEW FEDERAL CABINET, APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT
CHAUDHRY JULY 5, GIVES THE APPEARANCE OF CHANGE WHILE RETAINING
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THE BASIC CONTINUITY (AND DILEMMAS) OF MARTIAL LAW. THE INCLUSION OF
SEVEN POLITICIANS AMONG THE 22 MINISTERS WAS HAILED BY CHIEF MARTIAL
LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GENERAL ZIA AS A STEP TOWARD THE RESTORATION
OF DEMOCRACY, BUT IT IS IN FACT AN ADMISSION OF LIMITED DEFEAT IN HIS
EFFORT TO BROADEN HIS BASE OF SUPPORT; ALL THE POLITICIANS HAIL FROM
THE SAME PARTY AND ARE WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL FOLLOWING.
THE CABINET IS EMINENTLY EXPANDABLE, AND ZIA MAY STILL HOPE THAT HE

CAN ATTRACT OTHER POLITICIANS TO THE CABINET ROOM DOOR. END SUMMARY.

2. PAKISTAN'S FEDERAL CABINET, APPOINTED WITH MUCH PUBLIC FANFARE JULY 5 (REF A), GIVES THE APPEARANCE OF CHANGE WHILE RETAINING BASIC CONTINUITY WITH THE PREVIOUS MILITARY GOVERNMENT. CMLA ZIA HAS RETAINED

FOR HIMSELF THE IMPORTANT PORTFOLIOS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE, AND ATOMIC ENERGY, AND IN NAMING GHULAM ISHAQ "SENIOR MINISTER," ALONG WITH THE 11 OTHER HOLDOVERS FROM HIS COUNCIL OF ADVISORS, HE HAS WHOWN HIS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT FORM OF ADMINISTRATION. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A MINOR RESHUFFLE OF RESPONSIBILITY, THE HOLDOVERS RETAIN THE REAL POWER.

3. THE APPOINTMENT OF SEVEN POLITICIANS AMONG THE 22 MINISTERS IS SEEN HERE AS A LIMITED DEFEAT FOR ZIA -- ALL OF THEM HAIL FROM THE SAME PARTY, THE PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (PML), WHOSE LEADER, PIR OF PAGARO, HAS FOR SOMETIME BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE POLITICIANS WILLING TO SHARE POWER WITH THE MILITARY, ON THE MILITARY'S TERMS. THE

SEVEN ARE BEST DESCRIBED AS "OLD MUSLIM LEAGUERS," AND WHILE NEARLY ALL OF THEM WILL BRING PREVIOUS MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE TO ZIA'S NEW CABINET, MOST OF IT WAS OBTAINED DURING THE AYUB GOVERNMENTS OF THE LATER 1950'S AND EARLY 1960'S. THEIR CURRENT COMPETENCE REMAINS TO BE TESTED. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CHAUDHRY ZAHUR ELAHI AND KHWAJA SAFDAR, THE SEVEN ARE NOT NATIONALLY PROMINENT; MOST ARE REGARDED AS "OPPORTU-

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NISTS."

4. ACCORDING TO ZIA, THE MAIN TASK OF THE NEW MINISTERS WILL BE TO "SHARE THE BURDENS OF ADMINISTRATION." THE NEW CABINET MEMBERS WILL

BE ABLE TO MAKE POLITICAL SPEECHES, BUT THEY WILL NO DOUBT BE CONSCIOUS OF THE MILITARY'S WATCHFUL PRESENCE. ZIA MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE MILITARY COUNCIL'S IMPORTANCE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED; THE SERVICE CHIEFS WILL "CONTINUE TO ATTEND CABINET MEETINGS AND REMAIN AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY."

5. ZIA'S CABINET IS EMINENTLY EXPANDABLE, AND THE CMLA MAY HOPE THAT SINCE THE PML HAS BROKEN RANKS AND JOINED THE GOVERNMENT -- WITH ITS RESULTANT ACCESS TO SPOILS AND PATRONAGE -- OTHER POLITICIANS CAN BE LURED TO THE CABINET ROOM DOOR. THE CMLA TOLD OUR AMBASSADOR JULY 4 THAT THERE WOULD BE ROOM FOR OTHERS TO BE ADDED TO THE CABINET LATER.

WHILE ZIA SAYS THAT HE DOES NOT CONSIDER ANY OTHER PARTY NOW "IN OPPOSITION," CRITICISM APPEARING IN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES OF THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE'S (PNA) REFUSAL TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY POINTED. ZIA IS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN KARACHI WITH BALUCHI LEADERS JULY 7, AND HE MAY BE WILLING

TO GIVE UP SOME OF THE LESS IMPORTANT PORTFOLIOS HE RETAINS, SUCH AS
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, TO ATTRACT PROSPECTIVE CABINET MEMBERS.
ALL PROVINCES ARE NOW REPRESENTED,
WITH THE PUNJAB NATURALLY WEIGHING HEAVY; SECOND IN PROVINCIAL
REPRESENTATION, AS IN THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL, IS THE NORTHWEST
FRONTIER PROVINCE.

6. COMMENT: ZIA' NEW CABINET, WHICH THE CMLA HAILED AS A STEP TOWARD
HIS GOAL OF ELECTIONS AND A RETURN OF THE COUNTRY TO DEMOCRACY, FACES
SOME EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TASKS. LITTLE CONSENSUS EXISTS ON THE GOALS
AND REAL POWER OF THE NEW CABINET, AND THE NEW TEAM WILL REMAIN UNDER
THE STRICT CONTROL OF THE CMLA. WHILE ZIA MAY HOPE THAT, AT BEST, HE
HAS A POLITICALLY ASTUTE AND POPULARLY ACCEPTABLE GOVERNMENT, HE MAY
BE WILLING TO SETTLE FOR A BAND OF POLITICAL APOLOGISTS FOR HIS FUTURE
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COURSE, AND TECHNOCRATS -- HEADED BY GHULAM ISHAQ -- TO KEEP THE
GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONING.

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ACTION NEA-10

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PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01
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O R 070705Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6552

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 8 UNTIL END OF MESSAGE)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

7. THE BIGGEST LOSER IN THE CABINET'S APPOINTMENTS MAY BE THE PNA, WHICH WITH THE PML'S BREECH OF ALLIANCE DISCIPLINE, HAS PROBABLY HIT ROCK BOTTOM. JULYS7 PRESS REPORTS THAT THE JAMIAT-ULEMA-I-PAKISTAN (JUP) HAS QUIT THE PNA, LEAVING SIX PARTIES OUT OF THE ORIGINAL NINE PARTY COALITION. WHILE THE JUP HAZEFOR SOME TIME BEEN AT LOGGERHEADS WITH PNA LEADERSHIP, ITS CHOICE OF THIS MOMENT TO BAIL OUT IS HARDLY AUSPICIOUS FOR WHAT IS NOW CLEARLY SEEN BY THE CMLA AS AN OPPOSITION PARTY. END COMMENT.

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8. WE HAVE GATHERED BIO INFORMATION ON THE NEW FACES IN THE CABINET. WE WILL ALSO POUCH THE GOP'S BIO SKETCHES ON THE ENTIRE CABINET WHICH APPEARED IN THE PRESS JULY 6.

--FIDA MOHAMMAD KHAN, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND WORKS. BORN 11-24-17, KHAN JOINED THE MUSLIM LEAGUE IN 1944. HE HAS BEEN THE GENERAL-SECRETARY OF THE NWFP MUSLIM LEAGUE, AND HAS SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE ML WORKING COMMITTEE SINCE 1956.

--MAHMOOD HAROON, MINISTER OF INTERIOR. A WEALTHY INDUSTRIALIST, BORN 9-9-20, HAROON IS CHAIRMAN OF PAKISTAN HERALD PUBLICATIONS. HE SERVED AS MINISTER OF LABOR AND COOPERATION IN 1964, WAS HIGH COM-MISSIONER IN LONDON 1968-69, AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WORKS, 1969-1971.

--MAJ. GEN. JAMAL SAEED MIAN, MINISTER FOR STATES AND FRONTIER REGION S, WAS BORN 9-16-27 IN THE NWFP. COMMISSIONED IN 1947, MIAN ATTENDED ADVANCED COURSE IN ARTILLERY AT FT. BLISS AND FT. SILL AS A LCOL. HE WAS MILITARY ATTACHE IN CAIRO FROM 1966 TO 1970. PROMOTED TO MAJ. GEN. IN 1974.

--MR. MAHAMMAD KHAN JONEJO, MINISTER OF RAILWAYS. CONGEN KARACHI REPORTS THAT JONEJO HAS LONG BEEN ACTIVE IN THE MUSLIM LEAGUE AND IS A FOLLOWER OF PIR PAGARO. HE SERVED AS A MINISTER IN THE WEST PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT, BUT HE HAS NOT BEEN A POLITICAL CANDIDATE SINCE THE 1965 ELECTION WHEN HE CONTESTED AS A FOLLOWER OF AYUB UNDER THE BASCI DEMOCRACY SYSTEM.

--KHAWAJA MOHAMMAD SAFDAR, MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, IS PRESIDENT OF PUNJAB MUSLIM LEAGUE. HE WAS A SENATOR IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 1973-77, AND LED THE OPPOSITION 1976-77.

--ZAHID SARFRAZ, MINISTER OF COMMERCE. ORGANIZER OF THE COUNCIL MUSLIM LEAGUE, HE IS A SUPPORTER OF CHAUDHRY ZAHUR ELAHI. HIS FAMILY
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IS IN THE STEEL RE-ROLLING BUSINESS.

--CHAUDHRY ZAHUR ELAHI, MINISTER OF LABOR AND MANPOWER, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, IS THE MOST PROMINENT POLITICIAN AMONG THE MINISTER. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL MUSLIM LEAGUE.

--HAMID D. HABIB, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, COMMERCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL TRADE, WAS APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE CMLA FOR FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL TRADE IN MARCH 1978. HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF HABIB BANK LTD., UNTIL ITS NATIONALIZATION IN 1974. HE
E
WAS LATER APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF EXPORT PROMOTION BUREAU. SEE ISLAMABAD
D
2289 FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.

--JAVED HASHMI, MINISTER OF STATE FOR YOUTH AND STUDENTS' AFFAIRS,
WAS BORN [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 11 DEC 2014]. HE HAS A M.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND TOOK A L.L.B

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IN 1977. LONG ACTIVE IN STUDENT POLITICS, HE WAS SECRETARY- GENERAL AND THEN PRESIDENT, OF PUNJAB UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, UNION. HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE PUNJAB STUDENT COUNCIL 1972-74. ACCORDING TO CONGEN LAHORE, HASHMI' DECISION TO JOIN THE CABINET IS A SURPRISE. OVER THE YEARS AND THROUGH CONSIDERABLE SELF-SACRIFICE, HASHMI HAD ESTABLISHED FOR HIMSELF A REPUTATION AS A COURAGEOUS AND UP-AND-COMING STUDENT LEADER. MORE RECENTLY, HAVING AGREED TO BE HEAD OF TEHRIQ'S RABITA COMMITTEE, IT WAS EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO PERFORM AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEVELOPING MASS SUPPORT FOR THAT PARTY. NOW BY QUITTING TEHRIQ AND JOINING THE CABINET, IT IS FELT IN LAHORE THAT HE HAS THROWN AWAY HIS POLITICAL FUTURE.

--BEGUM VIQAR-UN-NISA NOON, MINISTER OF STATE, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ALL PAKISTAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION. SHE IS WELL-KNOWN FOR HER WORK WITH THE PAKISTAN RED CROSS (CRESCENT) SOCIETY, PAKISTAN FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL. SHE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PAKISTAN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. HUMMEL
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Message Attributes

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2090348
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAKISTANI'S NEW CABINET
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba62e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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